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## Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a RAKE receiver which is used in a direct sequence spread spectrum communications system, and which can receive multipath signals effectively.

[0002] A spread spectrum communication scheme is a communication method which multiplies a signal to be transmitted by a spreading code with a bandwidth of several to several ten thousand times the bandwidth of the signal at the transmitting side, and transmits it as a wideband signal, and which generates, at a receiving side, a despreading code in synchronism with the spreading code used for the spreading at the transmitting side, and recovers the narrow-band information by multiplying a received signal by the despreading code.

[0003] Recently, CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) has been attracting attention which applies the spread spectrum communication scheme to multiple access of mobile radio systems. The spread spectrum communication method is characterized in resistance to noise and interference and in concealment of information.

[0004] In multipath propagation, it is possible to separate the multipaths at a resolution corresponding to the spreading code length in the process of despreading. Since the multipath signals arrive through different paths, their amplitudes and phases vary independently at the receiving point. In particular, fading occurs in mobile channels because the characteristics of channels fluctuate with the movement of a mobile station. However, since the multipaths fluctuate independently, path diversity effect can be obtained by appropriately combining the multipath signals.

[0005] This scheme is called RAKE reception.

[0006] Fig. 1 shows a configuration of a conventional RAKE receiver. In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 10 designates despreaders (1)-(n) each corresponding to one of the multipaths; 12 designates a path searcher for detecting timings of the multipaths, and provides the despreaders 10 with the timings; 16 designates detectors (1)-(n) for carrying out detection of the paths; and 18 designates a combiner for combining the outputs of the detectors.

[0007] Generally, the path searcher 12 is composed of sliding correlators capable of successively sliding the timing of the despreading, or matched filters matching the spreading codes, or the like.

[0008] The operation of the RAKE receiver shown in Fig. 1 will be described. First, the path searcher 12 measures the multipath state of a channel. Detecting the paths, the path searcher 12 sequentially operates the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) at detected timings of the paths. In other words, the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) each receive different multipaths. Since the multipath signals have undergone phase rotation and amplitude fluctuation, the detectors 16(1)-16(n) compensate the phases and amplitudes.

[0009] Each pair of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) and detectors 16(1)-16(n) is called a RAKE finger. The outputs of the RAKE fingers are combined by the combiner 18. The combiner 18 can achieve more efficient reception than merely receiving a signal passing through a single path because the combined output is obtained which is the sum total of the signals passing through the multiple paths, thereby providing a received signal with reduced distortion due to fading.

[0010] Thus, the RAKE system can achieve multipath reception which improves the efficiency of incoming power reception, and which provides path diversity effect.

[0011] The RAKE receiver as described above in connection with Fig. 1, however, will result in degradation in reception quality when it combines signals passing through the multipaths buried under noise as illustrated in Fig. 2A.

[0012] Fig. 2A illustrates the relationships between the noise level and the despread outputs of the received signals from the multipaths, and the inputs of the despread outputs to the respective detectors.

[0013] The RAKE reception often employs coherent detection as its detection method. This is because the coherent detection, when it operates ideally, requires a minimum signal-to-noise ratio (S/N ratio) for achieving a particular average bit error rate.

[0014] The coherent detection, however, sharply degrades its characteristics when applied to paths buried under the noise as illustrated in Fig. 2A because of estimation errors of absolute phases.

[0015] In addition, efficient received power combining cannot be achieved when the number of multipaths exceeds the number of RAKE fingers as illustrated in Fig. 2B. Increasing the number of the RAKE fingers, however, will result in combining the paths buried under the noise.

[0016] Fig. 2B, like Fig. 2A, illustrates the relationship between the noise level and the despread outputs of the received signals associated with the paths, and the despread outputs fed to the respective detectors. Here, the outputs not connected to the detectors represent that they do not have corresponding RAKE fingers.

[0017] WO-A-9428640 discloses a RAKE receiver comprising:

- a plurality of despreaders for despreading a signal received via multipaths, wherein each said despreaders is provided for a path of a multipath signal;
- a plurality of detectors for detecting outputs of said despreaders;
- a post-detection combiner for combining signals output from said detectors; and
- a path searcher for identifying said multipaths and for assigning said despreaders to the paths;

[0018] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a RAKE receiver which can achieve the

RAKE combining making effective use of the received power even if there are paths buried under the noise, and which can implement high quality reception with reducing the distortion due to the noise.

[0019] In accordance with one aspect the present invention provides a RAKE receiver comprising:

- a plurality of despreaders for despreading a signal received via multipaths, wherein each said despreader is provided for a path of a multipath signal;
- a plurality of detectors for detecting outputs of said despreaders;
- a post-detection combiner for combining signals output from said detectors; and
- a path searcher for identifying said multipaths and for assigning said despreaders to the paths;

characterised by:

a plurality of pre-detection combiners each of which combines the outputs of at least two of said despreaders, wherein said detectors are operative to detect outputs of said pre-detection combiners.

[0020] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention provides a RAKE reception method comprising receiving a multipath signal; identifying and assigning said multipath signals to despreading steps, despreading respective signal paths in said despreading steps; detecting the despread signals in detecting steps; and combining outputs of said detecting steps; characterised in that prior to the detecting steps, at least two outputs of the despreading steps are combined in pre-detection combiner steps.

[0021] Here, the RAKE receiver may further comprise a switch for connecting outputs of the despreaders to desired ones of the pre-detection combiners, and for connecting the outputs of the despreaders to inputs of the detectors, wherein the path searcher controls a connection state of the switch.

[0022] The path searcher may dynamically change the connection state of the switch in response to an identification result of the multipaths.

[0023] At least one of the pre-detection combiners may combine a path with a signal level larger than a predetermined value with another path with a signal level smaller than the predetermined value.

[0024] The pre-detection combiners may combine a plurality of paths whose average signal levels are smaller than a particular threshold value, and the post-detection combiner may combine paths whose average signal levels are greater than the threshold level.

[0025] The pre-detection combiners may combine the paths whose signal levels are between a first threshold level and a second threshold level lower than the first threshold level, and the post-detection combiner may combine the paths whose signal levels are above the first threshold level, and wherein the paths whose signal levels are below the second threshold level are cancelled without being combined.

[0026] The path searcher may determine combinations of the paths such that a sum of average levels of each input to be RAKE combined becomes substantially equal.

[0027] The post-detection combiner may combine  $N$  paths selected in descending order of magnitude of an average signal level beginning from a greatest one in the average signal level, where  $N$  is a predetermined natural number, and the pre-detection combiners combine remaining paths whose average signal levels are smaller than those of the  $N$  paths.

[0028] The above and other objects, effects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description of embodiments thereof taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a conventional RAKE receiver;

Figs. 2A and 2B are diagrams illustrating the relationships between the multipaths, noise level and the RAKE fingers;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing a first embodiment of a RAKE receiver in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram showing a second embodiment of the RAKE receiver in accordance with the present invention;

Figs. 5A and 5B are diagrams illustrating path selection and combining;

Fig. 6A and 6B are block diagrams showing details of the RAKE receiver in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a graph illustrating the energy per bit to the noise spectral density ( $E_b/N_0$ ) required for achieving an average bit error rate (BER) of  $10^{-3}$  against the normalized fading frequency (IDT).

[0029] The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

#### EMBODIMENT 1

[0030] Fig. 3 shows a first embodiment of the RAKE receiver in accordance with the present invention.

[0031] In Fig. 3, the reference numeral 10 designates  $n$  despreaders (1)-(n), 12 designates a path searcher, 14 designates  $m$  pre-detection combiners (1)-(m), 16 designates  $m$  detectors (1)-(m), and 18 designates a post-detection combiner. Generally speaking, the path searcher 12 is composed of sliding correlators capable of implementing successive sliding of timings of despreading, or of matched filters matched to the spreading codes. In addition, it has a function to measure the amplitudes and delay times of signals of the multipaths. Furthermore, the path searcher 12 can set timings for the despreading to the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) to have them match the paths. The pre-detection combiners 14

(1)-14(m) can be each composed of a plain adder. The detectors 16 compensate each path for the phase rotation due to fading or for frequency deviations between the transmitter and the receiver, thereby enabling appropriate RAKE combining to be accomplished. The post-detection combiner 18 is a RAKE combiner that combines the multipath signals with weights to achieve the maximal ratio combining. Part of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) may be directly connected to some of the detectors 16.

[0032] The present RAKE receiver substantially differs from the conventional one as shown in Fig. 1 in that it has the pre-detection combiners 14 interposed between the despreaders 10 and the detectors 16. The pre-detection combiners 14 combine the outputs of the despreaders and supply them to the detectors. In the embodiment as shown in Fig. 3, each pre-detection combiner combines the signals from a pair of paths before detecting the despread signals. Accordingly, the number n of the despreaders and the number m of the detectors are related by the following expression.

$$m = n/2$$

[0033] The operation of the RAKE receiver as shown in Fig. 3 will now be described. First, the path searcher 12 measures, for respective paths, the amplitudes and delay times of the signals of the multipaths in response to a received signal. Subsequently, the path searcher 12 selects n paths, where n is the number of the despreaders, in descending order of magnitude of the amplitude beginning from the path with a maximum amplitude, and sets timings to the despreaders 10(1)-10(n), thereby assigning the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) to the paths to despread the multipath signals.

[0034] The assignment of the despreaders 10 is carried out in this embodiment in such a fashion that a path with a large amplitude and a path with a small amplitude are assigned to adjacent despreaders, and their outputs are input to the same pre-detection combiner.

[0035] Thus, the outputs of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) are combined by the pre-detection combiners 14(1)-14(n) so that a large amplitude path is paired with a small amplitude path, and detected by the detectors 16(1)-16(m). The detected outputs from the detectors 16(1)-16(m) are combined by the post-detection combiner 18, thereby implementing the RAKE effect.

[0036] The pre-combining of the large amplitude path and the small amplitude path enables the power of the multipath to be utilized effectively even when the multipath signals are buried under noise.

[0037] Although two paths are each combined in the foregoing embodiment, it is also possible to combine three or more despread outputs. In this case, it may be possible to combine one large amplitude path and two or more small amplitude paths.

[0038] The number of the despreaders and the

number of paths to be subjected to the pre-detector combining can be determined in advance by measuring the multipath state of the propagation path to be in use, and the number of despreaders available for the equipment.

## EMBODIMENT 2

[0039] Fig. 4 shows a second embodiment of the RAKE receiver in accordance with the present invention.

[0040] In Fig. 4, the reference numeral 10 designates despreaders (1)-(n) corresponding to respective paths, 22 designates a path searcher, 23 designates a switch, 14 designates pre-detection combiners (1)-(m), 16 designates detectors (1)-(m), and 18 designates a post-detection combiner. This RAKE receiver differs from that as shown in Fig. 3 in that it has the switch 23 interposed between the despreaders 10 and the pre-detection combiners 14. The switch 23, under the control of the path searcher 22, can combine the outputs of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) in desired combinations, and supply them to any pre-detection combiners 14(1)-14(m). Furthermore, the desired outputs of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) can be directly connected to the inputs of any detectors 16(1)-16(m) without interposing the pre-detection combiners.

[0041] The operation of the RAKE receiver as shown in Fig. 4 will now be described. The path searcher 22 detects and measures the multipaths, determines the number of the despreaders 10 to be used and the combinations of the pre-detection combiners in accordance with the number and amplitudes of the multipaths, and sets the switch 23 and the timings of the despreaders 10.

[0042] One example will be described of determining the number of the despreaders 10 and the combinations of the pre-detection combiners, which is carried out by the path searcher 12.

(1) It compares each path with the path with the maximum amplitude in the multipaths, and obtains the number N of paths whose amplitudes exceed a threshold level (-6 dB, for example).

(2) It selects 2N despreaders 10, and assigns the despreaders 10 to the paths by setting timings to the despreaders 10.

(3) It forms N combinations by combining each one of the outputs of the N paths whose amplitudes exceed -6 dB with one of the outputs of the N paths whose amplitudes are below -6 dB, which outputs are fed from the despreaders 10, and sets the switch 23 so that the N combinations are input to the pre-detection combiners 14.

[0043] Thus, each of the pre-detection combiners 14, receiving a pair of signals of the paths with a large amplitude and a small amplitude, combines them. Subse-

quently, the outputs of the pre-detection combiners 14 are detected by the detectors 16, and undergo N-path RAKE combining by the post-detection combiner 18.

[0044] With this configuration, the switch 23 can dynamically change the combinations of the outputs of the despreaders 10(1)-10(n) and inputs them to any of the pre-detection combiners 14(1)-14(m). This makes it possible, in spite of temporal fluctuations of the multipaths of the propagation paths, to achieve the optimum RAKE combining capable of preventing the combinations that would reduce the combined power or the combinations of the paths including much noise.

[0045] There are several combination methods of the paths: For example,

- (1) A method of combining a path of a large average signal level with a path of a small average signal level (which is describe above).
- (2) A method of combining the paths whose average signal levels are smaller than a predetermined threshold level before the detection, but combining the paths whose average signal levels are larger than the predetermined threshold level after the detection.
- (3) A method of setting two threshold levels for the average signal level, in which the paths whose amplitudes are less than a smaller second threshold level are cancelled without being combined because they cannot be distinguished from noise, the paths whose amplitudes are between the first and second threshold levels are combined before the detection, and the paths whose amplitudes exceed the greater first threshold level are combined with other paths after the detection.
- (4) A method of combining the paths such that the average levels of respective inputs to the RAKE combiner become equal in order to obtain maximum effect with the RAKE combining.
- (5) A method of combining N paths after the detection, which are selected in descending order of magnitude of the average levels beginning from the greatest one, but combining the remaining paths before the detection.

[0046] The combining method of the item (4) above will be described in more detail with reference to Figs. 5A and 5B. As described above, the RAKE combining can achieve the maximum effect when the average levels of the respective inputs to the RAKE combiner are equal. This is similar to the space diversity implemented using a plurality of antennas, in which the diversity effect will reduce if the gains of the antennas and the average received levels differ from one another (unequal gain).

[0047] Although there are several combining methods for matching the inputs to the RAKE combining, one of them will be described referring to Figs. 5A and 5B. First, the average levels of the paths are obtained. This is illustrated in Fig. 5A, in which the x-axis represents the

paths and the y-axis represents the average levels. The average levels obtained are sorted in descending order of magnitude. This is shown in Fig. 5B. The paths thus sorted out in terms of the average levels are assigned to the pre-detection combiners 14 beginning from the combiner 14(1) in descending order of magnitude using the switch 23. When the n-th path has been assigned to the combiner 14(n), the remaining paths beginning from the (n+1)-th path in magnitude of the average level are assigned in turn to the combiners 14 in descending order of magnitude beginning from the combiner 14(n) and ending at the combiner 14(1). This process is repeated until the entire paths have been assigned to the combiners 14 as illustrated by arrows in Fig. 5B. The combiners 14, combining the assigned paths, produce the outputs approximately equal in levels. These outputs are detected by the detectors 16, and then input to the RAKE combiner (post-detection combiner) 18. The system thus arranged can provide the RAKE combiner 18 with approximately equal inputs, achieving the most effective RAKE combining.

[0048] Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a receiver in which the RAKE combining system as shown in Fig. 4 is incorporated. In Fig. 6, the received signal fed from an antenna 41 is converted to a baseband signal by an RF stage 42, and to a digital signal by an A/D converter 43. The digital signal is supplied to the despreaders 10 as well as to the path searcher 22. The signal input to the path searcher 22 is correlated by a correlator 52 with a code sequence generated by a code generator 53 with its timing sliding, and a correlation decision portion 54 makes a decision whether the correlation has been established. The establishment of the correlation means that a path has been identified. Thus, the timings of the paths identified are sequentially assigned to code generators 45(1)-45(n) in the despreaders 10. Despreading at these timings using the code generators 45 and correlators 44 enables the paths to be assigned to the path fingers.

[0049] To obtain the average level of each path, the correlation values of the path are accumulated in a correlation memory 55 including an area for each path. Thus, the average level is obtained for each path, which enables the combining using the average levels described above. After that, the original transmitted signal is recovered by decoding the combined signal by a signal processor 19.

[0050] Fig. 7 shows, against the normalized frequency (fDT), characteristics of the energy per bit to the noise spectral density ( $E_b/N_0$ ) needed for achieving the average bit error rate (BER) of  $10^{-3}$ . It is assumed here that there are four multipaths, and they are directly RAKE combined in the conventional system, and that two pairs of paths, each including a path with a large amplitude and a path with a small amplitude, are RAKE combined in the system in accordance with the present invention.

[0051] As can be seen from this graph, applying the present invention can achieve the improvement of about

0-0.5 dB in the energy per bit to the noise spectral density without the space diversity, and of about 0.3-0.5 dB with the space diversity.

[0052] The present invention has been described in detail with respect to preferred embodiments, and it will now be apparent from the foregoing to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects as defined in the appended claims.

## Claims

### 1. A RAKE receiver comprising:

a plurality of despreaders (10) for despreading a signal received via multipaths, wherein each said despreader (10) is provided for a path of a multipath signal;  
a plurality of detectors (16) for detecting outputs of said despreaders (10);  
a post-detection combiner (18) for combining signals output from said detectors (16); and  
a path searcher (12) for identifying said multipaths and for assigning said despreaders (10) to the paths;

characterised by:

a plurality of pre-detection combiners (14) each of which combines the outputs of at least two of said despreaders (10), wherein said detectors (16) are operative to detect outputs of said pre-detection combiners (14).

2. The RAKE receiver as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a switch (23) for connecting outputs of said despreaders (10) to desired ones of said pre-detection combiners (14), and for connecting the outputs of said despreaders (10) to inputs of said detectors (16), wherein said path searcher (12) is operative to control a connection state of said switch (23).

3. The RAKE receiver as claimed in claim 2, wherein said path searcher (12) is operative to dynamically change said connection state of said switch (23) in response to an identification result of said multipaths.

4. The RAKE receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of said pre-detection combiners (14) is operative to combine a path with a signal level larger than a predetermined value with another path with a signal level smaller than the predetermined value.

5. The RAKE receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said pre-detection combiners (14)

are operative to combine a plurality of paths whose average signal levels are smaller than a particular threshold value, and said post-detection combiner (18) is operative to combine paths whose average signal levels are greater than the threshold level.

6. The RAKE receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said pre-detection combiners (14) are operative to combine the paths whose signal levels are between a first threshold level and a second threshold level lower than the first threshold level, said post-detection combiner (18) is operative to combine the paths whose signal levels are above the first threshold level, and the paths whose signal levels are below the second threshold level are cancelled without being combined.

7. The RAKE receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said path searcher (12) is operative to determine combinations of said paths such that a sum of average levels of each input to be RAKE combined becomes substantially equal.

8. The RAKE receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said post-detection combiner (18) is operative to combine N paths selected in descending order of magnitude of an average signal level beginning from a greatest one in the average signal level, where N is a predetermined natural number, and said pre-detection combiners (14) are operative to combine remaining paths whose average signal levels are smaller than those of the N paths.

9. A RAKE reception method comprising receiving a multipath signal, identifying and assigning said multipath signal to despreading steps; despreading respective signal paths in said despreading steps; detecting the despread signals in detecting steps; and combining outputs of said detecting steps; characterised in that prior to the detecting steps, at least two outputs of the despreading steps are combined in pre-detection combining steps.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, including the step of switching outputs of the despreading steps to desired ones of said pre-detection combining steps in dependence upon identified multipaths.

11. The method as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein a path with a signal level larger than a predetermined value is combined with another path with a signal level smaller than the predetermined value in at least one said pre-detection combining steps.

12. The method as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein a plurality of paths whose average signal levels are smaller than a particular threshold value

are combined in said pre-detection combining steps, and paths whose average signal levels are greater than the threshold level are combined in said post detection combining steps.

13. The method as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the paths whose signal levels are between a first threshold level and a second threshold level lower than the first threshold level are combined in said pre-detection combining steps, the paths whose signal levels are above the first threshold levels are combined in said post-detection combining steps, and the paths whose signal levels are below the second threshold level are cancelled without being combined.
14. The method of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein combination of said paths are determined such that a sum of average levels of each input to be combined becomes substantially equal.
15. The method of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein N paths selected in descending order of magnitude of an average signal level beginning from a greatest one in the average signal level is combined in the post-detection combining steps, where N is a pre-determined natural member, and remaining paths whose average signal are smaller than those of the N paths are combined in said pre-detection combining steps.

#### Patentansprüche

##### 1. RAKE-Empfänger mit:

einer Vielzahl von Entspreizern (10) zum Entspreizen eines über Mehrfachwege empfangenen Signals, wobei jeder der Entspreizer (10) für einen Weg eines Mehrfachwegesignals vorgesehen ist;  
einer Vielzahl von Detektoren (16) zum Erfassen der Ausgangssignale der Entspreizer (10);  
einem Nacherfassungskombinator (18) zum Kombinieren der durch die Detektoren (16) ausgegebenen Signale; und einem Wegsucher (12) zum Identifizieren der Mehrfachwege und zum Zuordnen der Entspreizer (10) zu den Wegen;

##### gekennzeichnet durch

eine Vielzahl von Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) jeweils zum Kombinieren der Ausgangssignale zumindest zweier der Entspreizer (10), wobei die Detektoren (16) zum Erfassen der Ausgangssignale der Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) betrieben werden.

2. RAKE-Empfänger nach Anspruch 1, weiterhin umfassend einen Schalter (23) zum Verbinden der Ausgänge der Entspreizer (10) mit gewünschten Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14), und zum Verbinden der Ausgänge der Entspreizer (10) mit Eingängen der Detektoren (16), wobei der Wegsucher (12) zum Steuern eines Verbindungszustands des Schalters (23) betrieben wird.

3. RAKE-Empfänger nach Anspruch 2, wobei der Wegsucher (12) zum dynamischen Ändern des Verbindungszustands des Schalters (23) im Ansprechen auf ein Identifikationsergebnis der Mehrfachwege betrieben wird.

4. RAKE-Empfänger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei zumindest einer der Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) zum Kombinieren eines Wegs mit einem Signalpegel größer als ein vorbestimmter Wert mit einem anderen Weg mit einem Signalpegel kleiner als der vorbestimmte Wert betrieben wird.

5. RAKE-Empfänger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) zum Kombinieren einer Vielzahl von Wegen, deren Durchschnittssignalpegel kleiner sind als ein bestimmter Schwellwert, betrieben werden, und wobei der Nacherfassungskombinator (18) zum Kombinieren der Wege, deren Durchschnittssignalpegel höher als der Schwellwertpegel sind, betrieben wird.

6. RAKE-Empfänger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) zum Kombinieren der Wege, deren Signalpegel sich zwischen einem ersten Schwellwertpegel und einem zweiten gegenüber dem ersten Schwellwertpegel kleineren Schwellwertpegel befinden, betrieben werden, wobei der Nacherfassungskombinator (18) zum Kombinieren der Wege, deren Signalpegel über dem ersten Schwellwertpegel liegen, betrieben wird, und wobei die Wege, deren Signalpegel unterhalb des zweiten Schwellwertpegels liegen, ohne Kombination gelöscht werden.

7. RAKE-Empfänger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei der Wegsucher (12) zum Bestimmen von Kombinationen der Wege in der Weise betrieben wird, daß eine Summe der Durchschnittspegel eines jeden der RAKE-Kombination zu unterziehenden Eingangs im wesentlichen angeglichen wird.

8. RAKE-Empfänger nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei der Nacherfassungskombinator (18) betrieben wird zum Kombinieren von N Wegen, die in abnehmender Reihenfolge der Höhe eines Durchschnittssignalpegels ausgehend von einem höchsten Durchschnittssignalpegel ausgewählt werden,

wobei N eine vorbestimmte natürliche Zahl ist, und wobei die Vorerfassungskombinatoren (14) betrieben werden zum Kombinieren der verbleibenden Wege, deren Durchschnittssignalpegel kleiner sind als diejenigen der N Wege.

9. RAKE-Empfangsverfahren umfassend Empfangen eines Mehrwegesignals, Identifizieren und Zuweisen des Mehrwegesignals zu Entspreizschritten; Entspreizen jeweiliger Signalwege in den Entspreizschritten; Erfassen der entspreizten Signale in Erfassungsschritten; und Kombinieren der Ausgangssignale der Erfassungsschritte;

**dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß**

vor den Erfassungsschritten zumindest zwei Ausgangssignale der Entspreizschritte in Vorerfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden.

10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, enthaltend den Schritt des Schaltens der Ausgangssignale der Entspreizschritte zu gewünschten Vorerfassungskombinationsschritten in Abhängigkeit identifizierter Mehrfachwege.

11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, wobei ein Weg mit einem Signalpegel, der höher ist als ein vorbestimmter Wert, kombiniert wird mit einem anderen Weg mit einem Signalpegel, der niedriger ist als der vorbestimmte Wert, in zumindest einem der Vorerfassungskombinationsschritte.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder Anspruch 10, wobei eine Vielzahl von Wegen, deren Durchschnittssignalpegel niedriger sind als ein vorbestimmter Schwellwert in den Vorerfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden, und wobei Wege, deren Durchschnittssignalpegel höher sind als der Schwellwertpegel in den Nacherfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder Anspruch 10, wobei die Wege, deren Signalpegel sich zwischen einem ersten Schwellwertpegel und einem gegenüber dem ersten Schwellwertpegel niedrigeren zweiten Schwellwertpegel befinden, in den Vorerfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden, wobei die Wege, deren Signalpegel über dem ersten Schwellwertpegel liegen, in den Nacherfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden, und wobei die Wege, deren Signalpegel unter dem zweiten Schwellwertpegel liegen, ohne Kombination gelöscht werden.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder Anspruch 10, wobei eine Kombination der Wege so bestimmt wird, daß eine Summe der Durchschnittspegel eines jeden zu kombinierenden Eingangs im wesentlichen angeglichen wird.

15. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9 oder Anspruch 10, wobei N Wege, die in abnehmender Reihenfolge der Höhe eines Durchschnittssignalpegels ausgehend von einem größten Durchschnittssignalpegel ausgewählt werden, in den Nacherfassungskombinationsschritten kombiniert werden, wobei N eine vorbestimmte natürliche Zahl ist, und wobei die verbleibenden Wege, deren Durchschnittssignal kleiner als das der N Wege ist, in den Vorerfassungsschritten kombiniert werden.

## Revendications

1. Récepteur RAKE comportant :

une pluralité de désétaleurs (10) destinés à désétaler un signal reçu par l'intermédiaire de trajets multiples, dans lequel chaque désétaleur (10) est prévu pour un trajet d'un signal à trajets multiples ;

une pluralité de capteurs (16) destinés à détecter des sorties des désétaleurs (10) ;

un combineur (18) de postdétECTION destiné à combiner des signaux issus des capteurs (16) ; et

un dispositif (12) de recherche de trajet destiné à identifier les trajets multiples et à affecter les désétaleurs (10) aux trajets ;

caractérisé par.

une pluralité de combineurs (14) de prédétection qui chacun combine les sorties d'au moins deux des désétaleurs (10), dans lequel les capteurs (16) fonctionnent de manière à détecter des sorties des combineurs (14) de prédétection.

2. Récepteur RAKE suivant la revendication 1, comportant en outre un commutateur (23) destiné à connecter des sorties des désétaleurs (10) à des combineurs souhaités parmi les combineurs (14) de prédétection, et destiné à connecter les sorties des désétaleurs (10) à des entrées des capteurs (16), dans lequel le dispositif (12) de recherche de trajet fonctionne de manière à commander un état de connexion du commutateur (23).

3. Récepteur RAKE suivant la revendication 2, dans lequel le dispositif (12) de recherche de trajet fonctionne de manière à modifier de manière dynamique l'état de connexion du commutateur (23) en réponse à un résultat d'identification des trajets multiples.

4. Récepteur RAKE suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel au moins l'un des combineurs (14) de prédétection fonctionne pour combiner un trajet avec un niveau de signal plus



grand qu'une valeur déterminée à l'avance avec un autre trajet ayant un niveau de signal plus petit que la valeur déterminée à l'avance.

5. Récepteur RAKE suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel les combineurs (14) de prédétection fonctionnent de manière à combiner une pluralité de trajets dont les niveaux de signal moyens sont plus petits qu'une valeur de seuil particulière, et le combineur (18) de postdétecton fonctionne de manière à combiner des trajets dont les niveaux de signal moyens sont supérieurs au niveau de seuil.

6. Récepteur RAKE suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel les combineurs (14) de prédétection fonctionnent pour combiner les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont compris entre un premier niveau de seuil et un second niveau de seuil inférieur au premier niveau de seuil, le combineur (18) de postdétecton fonctionne pour combiner les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont supérieurs au premier niveau de seuil, et les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont inférieurs au second niveau de seuil sont annulés sans être combinés.

7. Récepteur RAKE suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel le dispositif (12) de recherche de trajet fonctionne pour déterminer des combinaisons des trajets de sorte qu'une somme des niveaux moyens de chaque entrée à combiner RAKE devient sensiblement constante.

8. Récepteur RAKE suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel le combineur (18) de postdétecton fonctionne pour combiner N trajets sélectionnés suivant un ordre décroissant d'amplitude d'un niveau de signal moyen commençant à partir d'un niveau de signal moyen le plus grand des niveaux de signal moyens, où N est un nombre entier déterminé à l'avance, et les combineurs (14) de prédétection fonctionnent pour combiner des trajets restants dont les niveaux de signal moyens sont plus petits que ceux des N trajets.

9. Procédé de réception RAKE comportant les étapes qui consistent à recevoir un signal multitrajet, à identifier et affecter le signal multitrajet à des étapes de désétalement ; à désétalement des trajets de signaux respectifs dans les étapes de désétalement ; à détecter les signaux désétalement dans des étapes de détection ; et à combiner des sorties des étapes de détection ; caractérisé en ce que, avant les étapes de détection, au moins deux sorties des étapes de désétalement sont combinées dans des étapes de combinaison de prédétection.

10. Procédé suivant la revendication 9, incluant l'étape

qui consiste à commuter des sorties des étapes de désétalement à des étapes de combinaison de prédétection souhaitées parmi les étapes de combinaison de prédétection en fonction des trajets multiples identifiés.

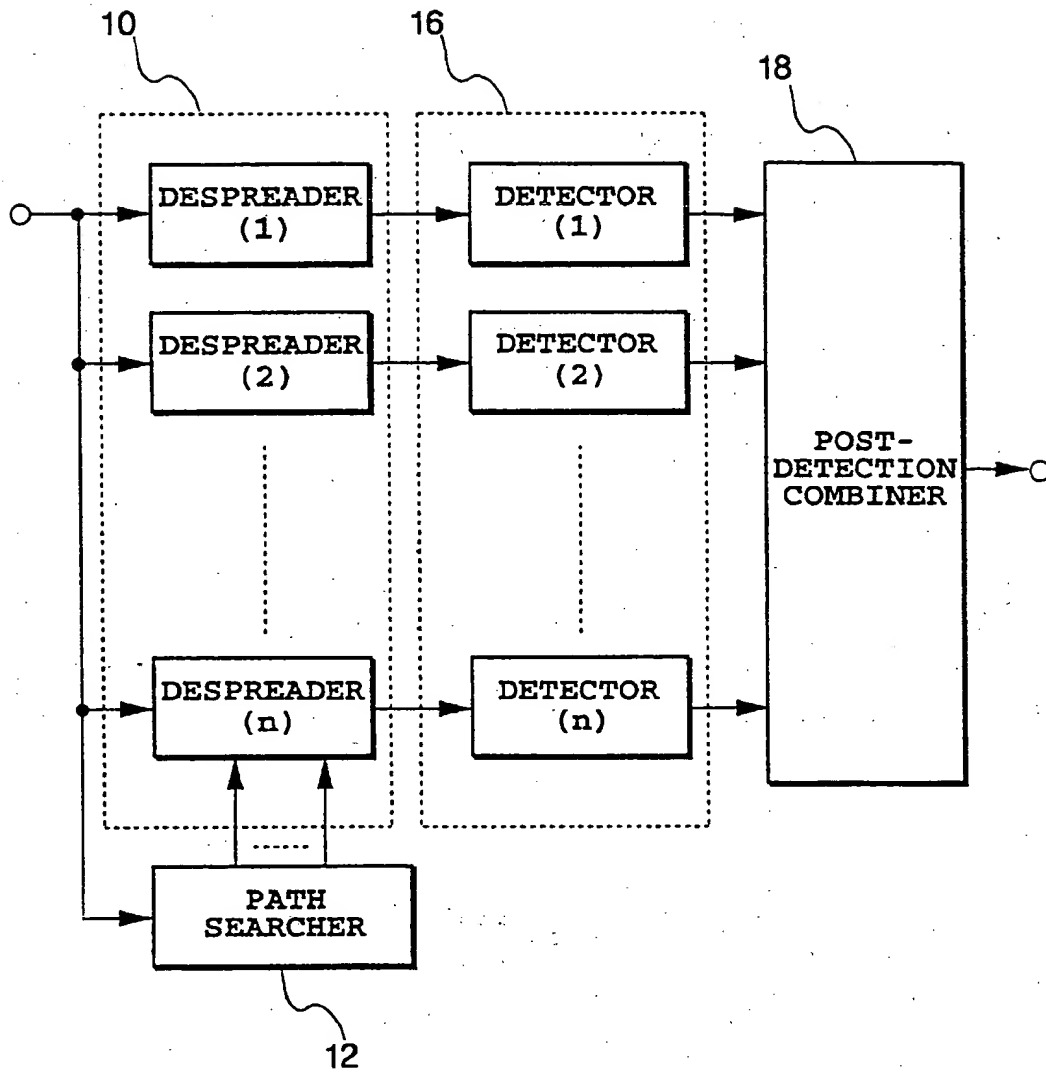
11. Procédé suivant la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel un trajet ayant un niveau de signal plus grand qu'une valeur déterminée à l'avance est combiné avec un autre trajet ayant un niveau de signal plus petit que la valeur déterminée à l'avance dans au moins l'une des étapes de combinaison de prédétection.

12. Procédé suivant la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel une pluralité de trajets dont les niveaux de signal moyens sont plus petits qu'une valeur de seuil particulière sont combinés dans les étapes de combinaison de prédétection, et des trajets dont les niveaux de signal moyens sont supérieurs au niveau de seuil sont combinés dans les étapes de combinaison de postdétecton.

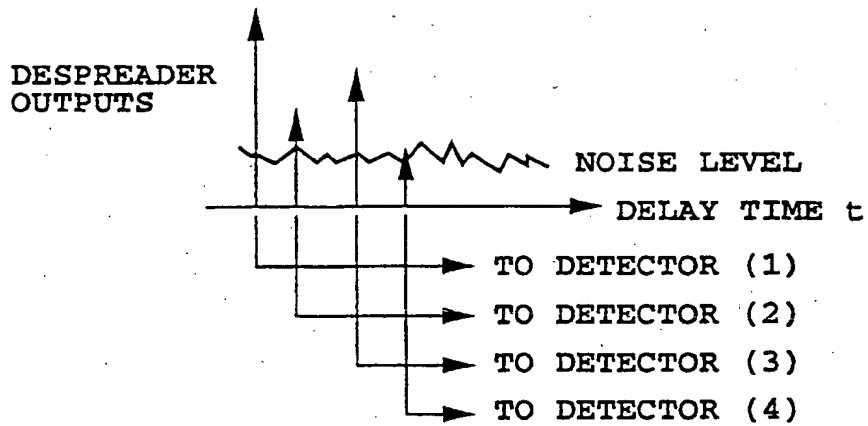
13. Procédé suivant la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont compris entre un premier niveau de seuil et un second niveau de seuil inférieur au premier niveau de seuil sont combinés dans les étapes de combinaison de prédétection, les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont supérieurs au premier niveau de seuil sont combinés dans les étapes de combinaison de postdétecton, et les trajets dont les niveaux de signal sont en dessous du second niveau de seuil sont annulés sans être combinés.

14. Procédé suivant la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel les combinaisons des trajets sont déterminées de sorte qu'une somme des niveaux moyens de chaque entrée à combiner devient sensiblement constante.

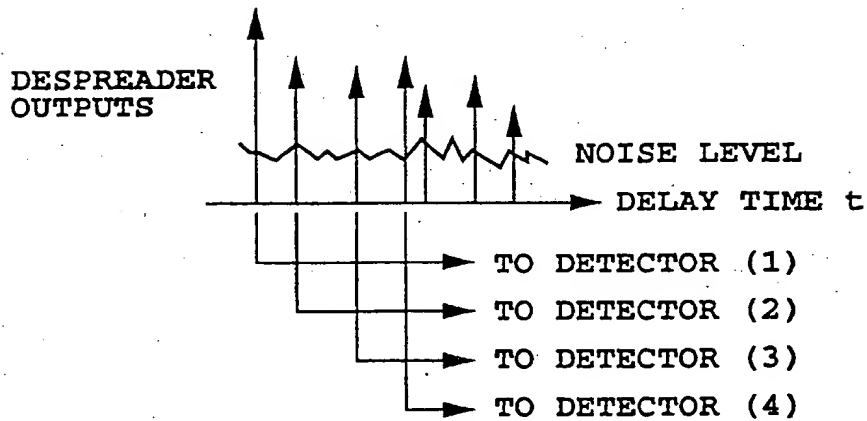
15. Procédé suivant la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel N trajets sélectionnés suivant un ordre décroissant d'amplitude d'un niveau de signal moyen commençant à partir d'un plus grand des niveaux de signal moyens est combiné dans les étapes de combinaison de postdétecton, où N est un nombre entier déterminé à l'avance, et des trajets restants dont les signaux moyens sont plus petits que ceux des N trajets sont combinés dans les étapes de combinaison de prédétection.



**FIG.1**  
**PRIOR ART**



**FIG. 2A**  
**PRIOR ART**



**FIG. 2B**  
**PRIOR ART**

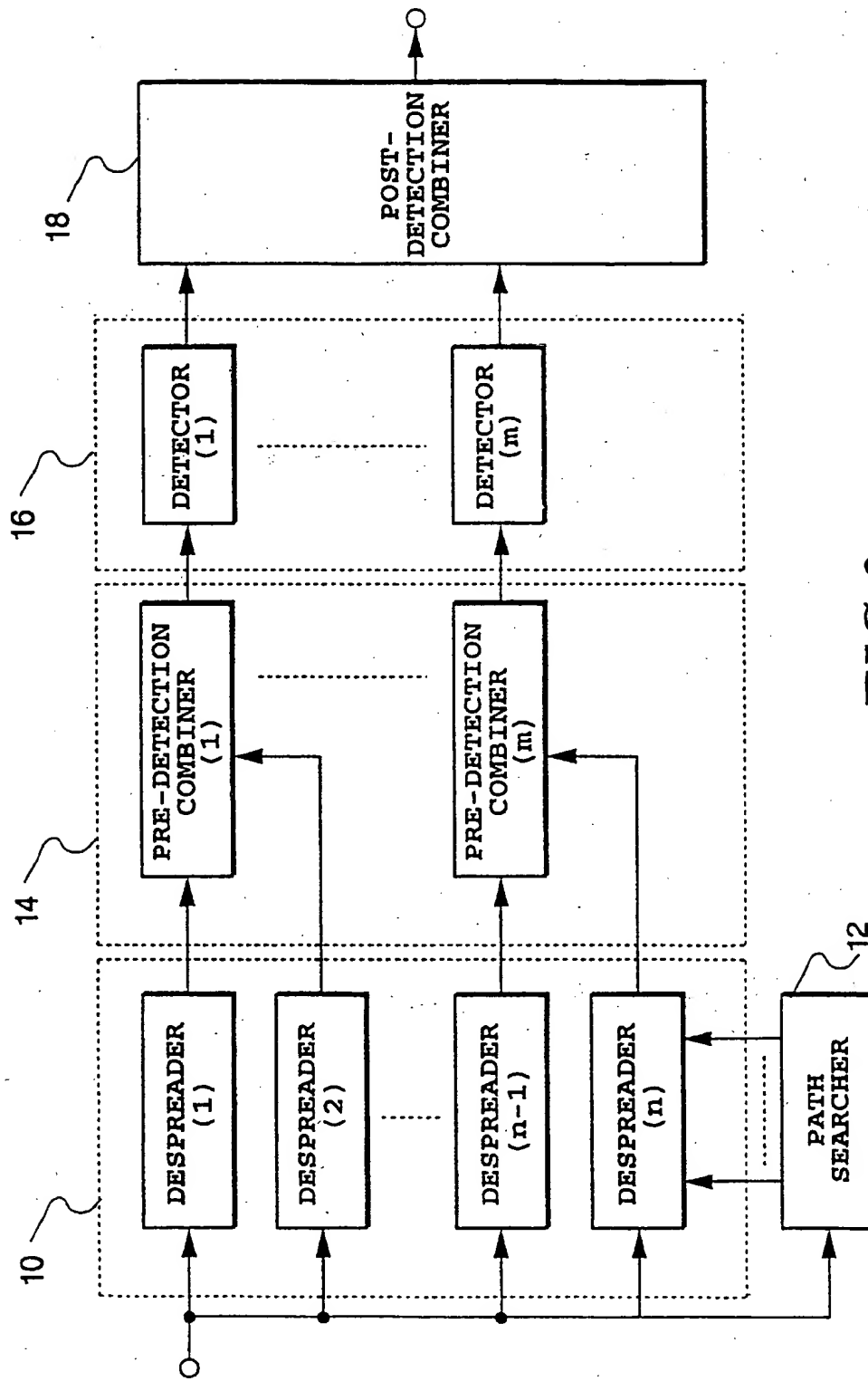


FIG. 3

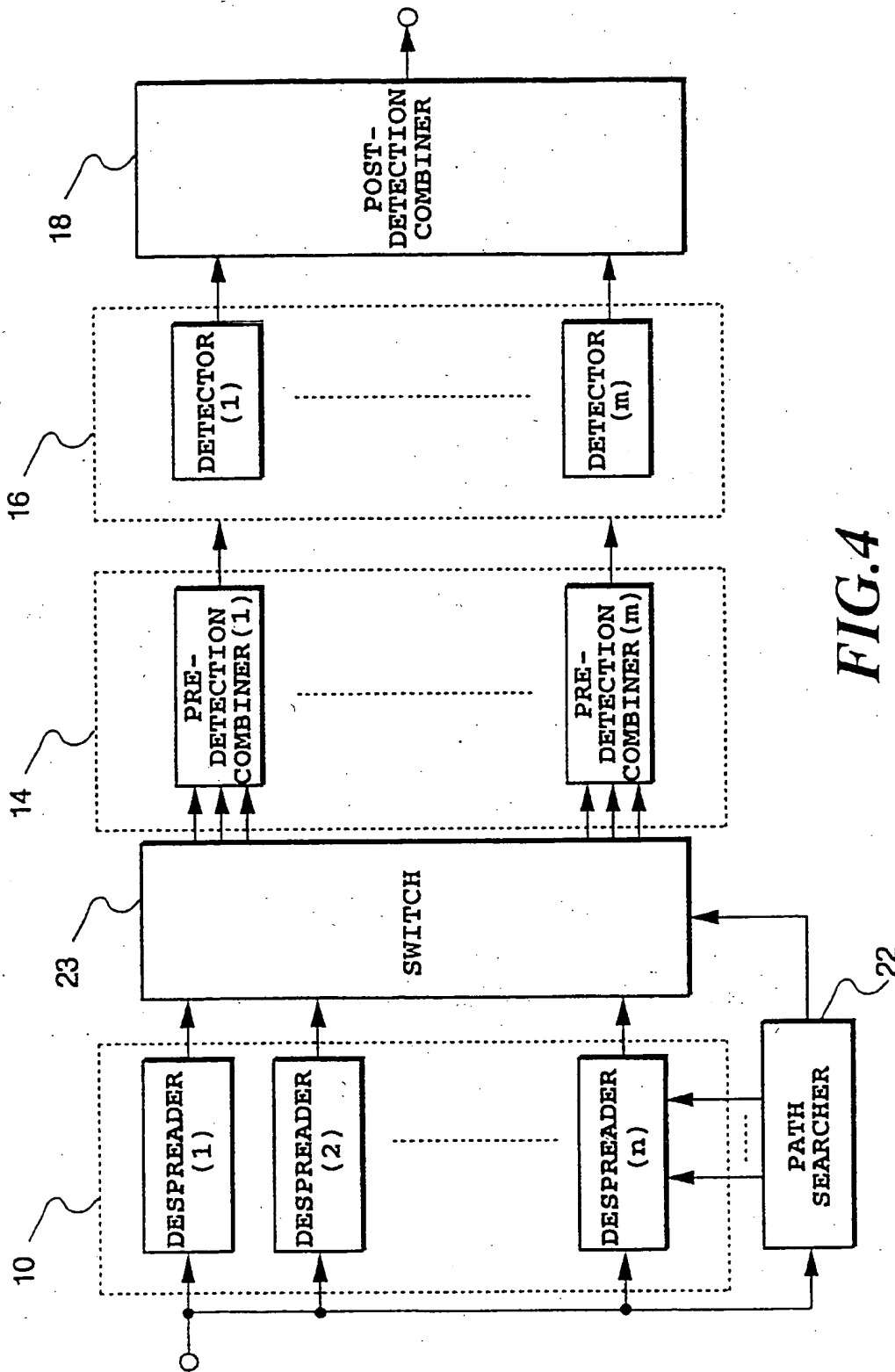
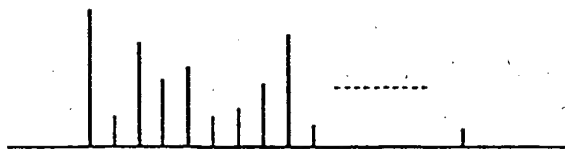
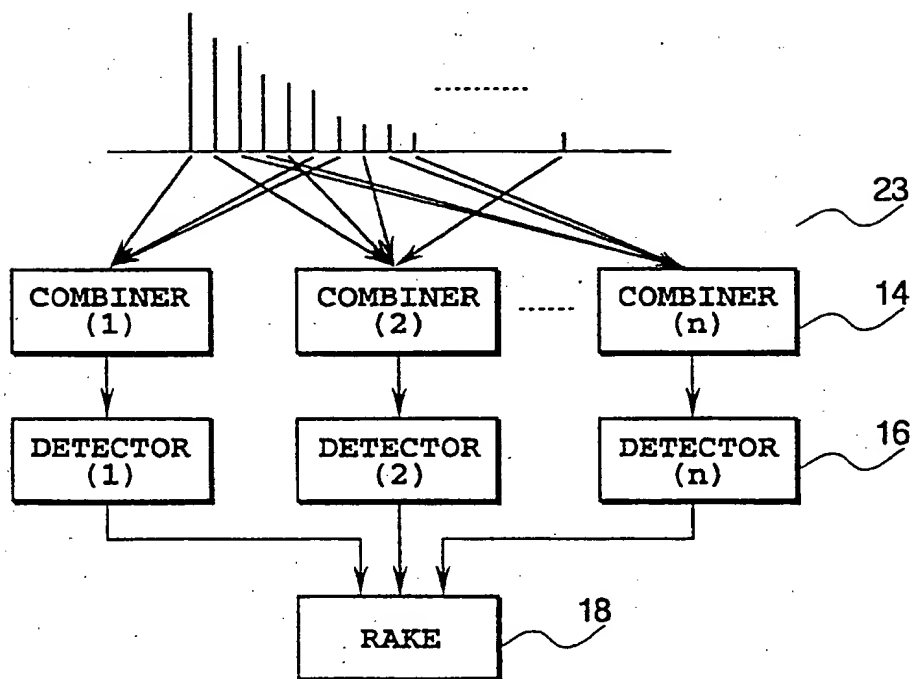


FIG. 4



**FIG.5A**



**FIG.5B**

FIG. 6

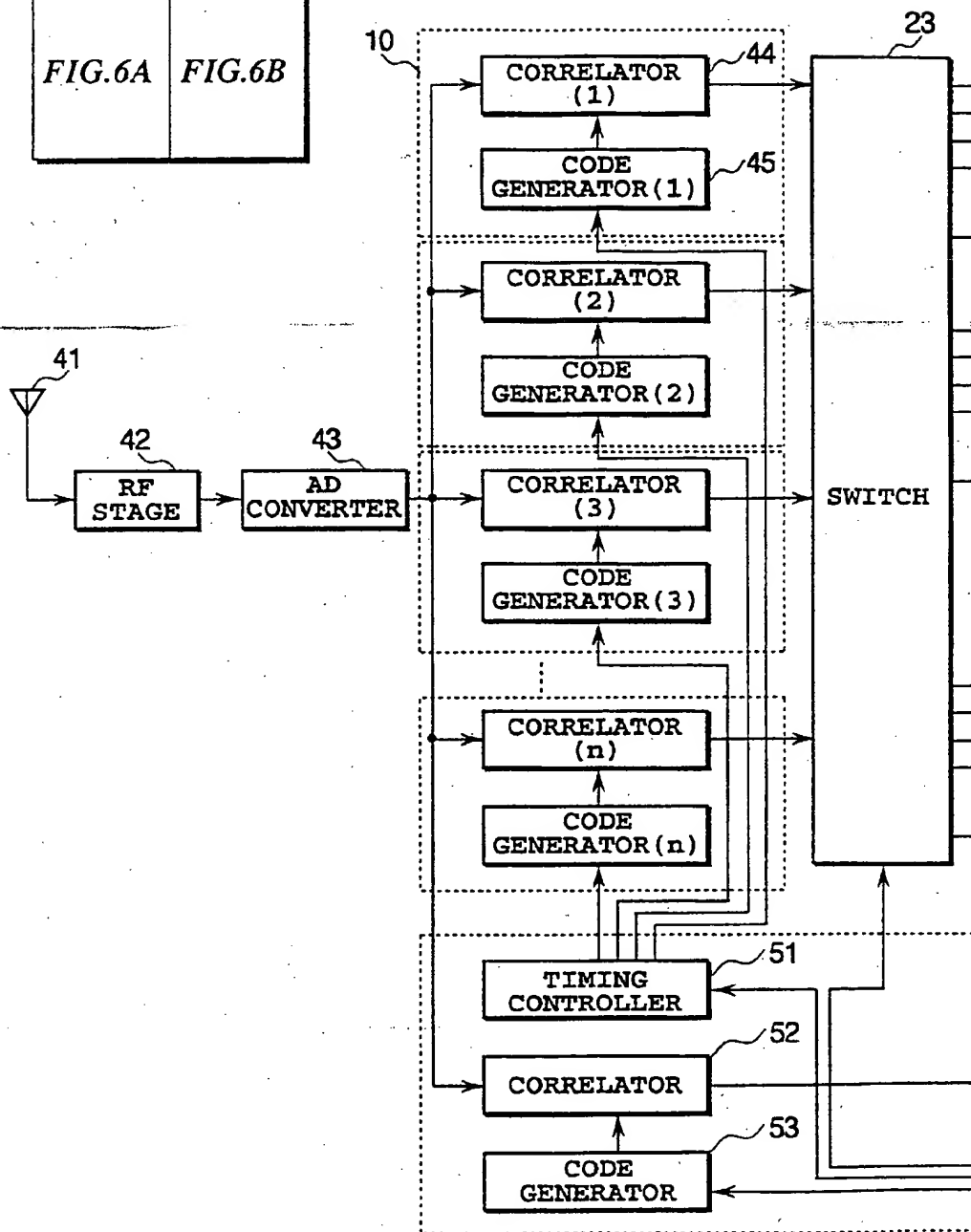
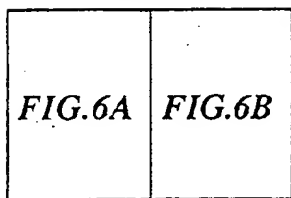


FIG. 6A

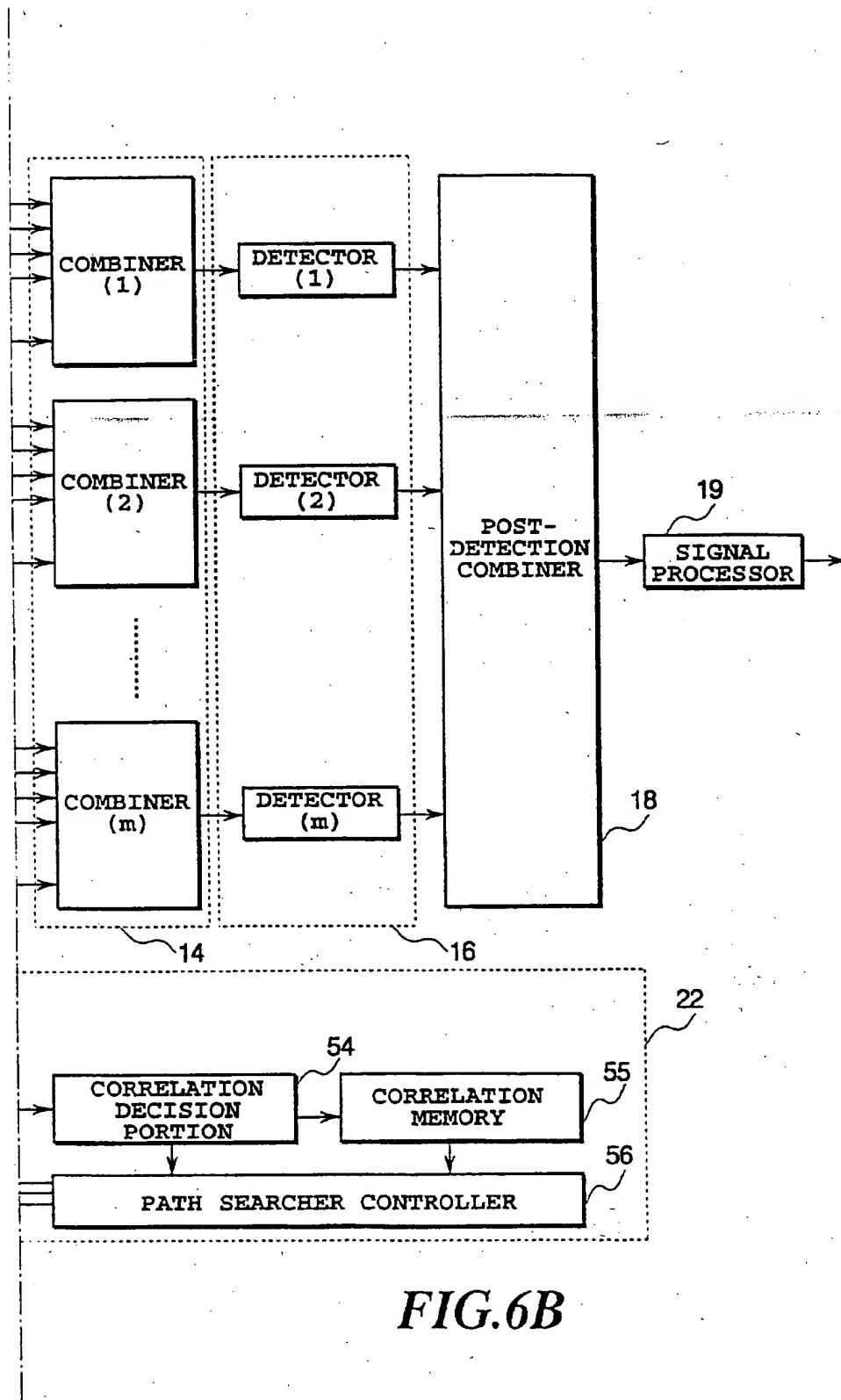


FIG. 6B



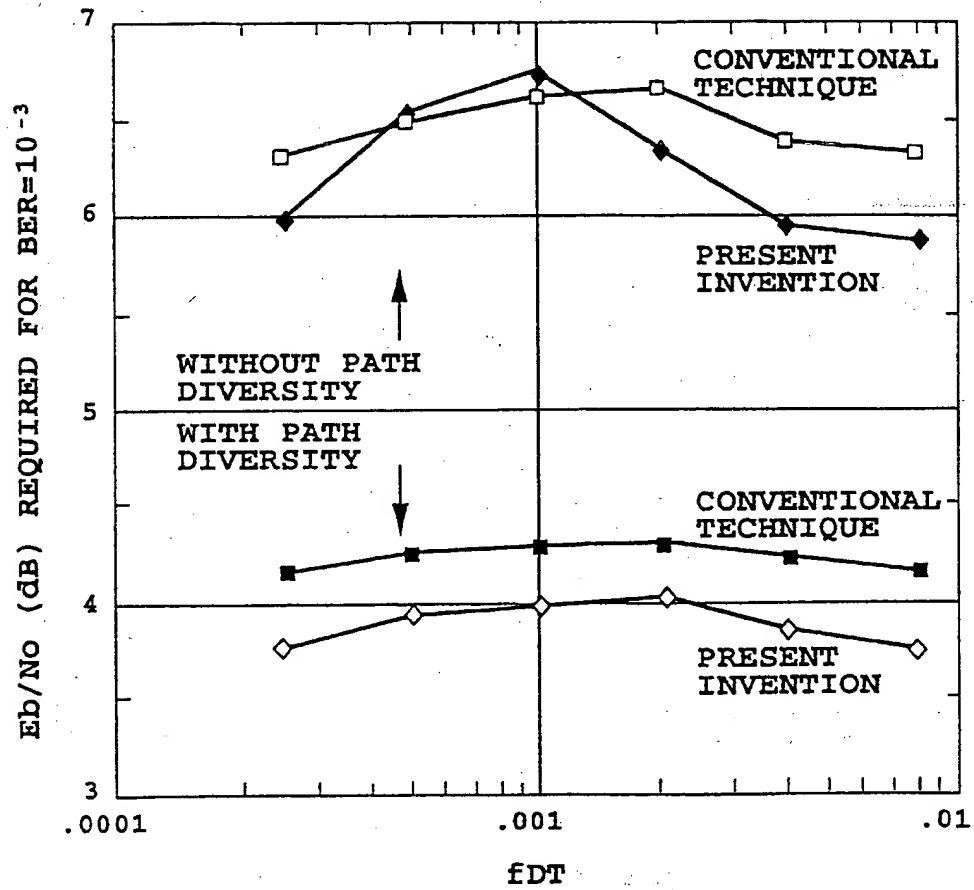


FIG.7